**Co-operation with Mauritius in the field of biotechnology**

5513. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mauritius has expressed its desire to work with India in the field of information and communication technology and biotechnology;

(b) if so, whether the Mauritius Deputy Premier has a long discussions with the HRD Minister during his visit in the month of April, 2002;

(c) whether any agreement between the two countries has been reached;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent both the countires have agreed to work in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam.

(c) to (e) An agreement on cooperation in Information Technology between the two countries has been signed on 10-3-2000. Both the countries have agreed to undertake activities such as specific technological, industrial and investment seminars, round table and joint venture meetings, capacity building, establishment of strategic alliances and export promotion and marketing. Pursuant to the agreement between the two countries, a senior officer of the Department of Information Technology was appointed as Adviser to the Government of Mauritius to assist in implementation of the Cyber City project being implemented in Mauritius.

During the visit of the Minister for Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources, Mauritius to India March 23—30, 2002, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Department of Biotechnology and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources, Mauritius on 25.3.2002 for Cooperation in Biotechnology. The areas identified are: plant breeding and crop improvement, plant biotechnology and related biosafety issues, recombinant DNA technology, vaccine development, genome mapping and molecular disease diagnosis, plant variety protection including variety characterization, testing and registration,

seed technology including hybrid seed production, bioinformatics, food technology, biological control of pests, organic agriculture and Human Resource Development. It has been agreed to set up an India-Mauritius joint committee comprising experts from both the countries for effective implementation of the MoU, monitoring of specific programmes or projects, defining financial and administrative terms of cooperation and recommending amendment to or extension of the MoU.

**KVPY in Karnataka**

5514. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students who were selected under the Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana in Karnataka for taking up research careers in basic sciences, engineering and medicine during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) the amount of scholarship released to these students during the above period; and

(c) how many of the students selected during the above period are residents of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) The number of students selected under the Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana in Karnataka—

| Year | Basic Sciences | Engineering | Medicine |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-2001 | 9 | — | — |
| 2001-2002 | 12 | — | 1 |

(b) The amount of scholarship released to the above students—

| Year | Basic Science | Engineering | Medicine |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-2001 | Rs. 4,56,000/- | — | — |
| 2001-2002 | Rs.2,60,000/- | — | Rs. 30,000/- |